

EPISCOPAL 'MISSAL' BITTERLY ATTACKED

Low Church Publication Calls It
"Un-American," "Illicit" and
"Non-Protestant."

"ROMAN" IMITATION IS SEEN

Effort to 'Pervert' Communion Ser-
vice into Mass Is Charged—
Official Endorsement Assailed.

The Chronicle, a monthly repre-
senting the views of the low church
liberals of the Protestant Episcopal
Church, attacks strongly in its lead-
ing April editorial a new mass book,
The American Missal, published re-
cently in Milwaukee. The editorial
calls the book, announced as supplie-
mentary to the Book of Common
Prayer, un-American, non-Protestant
and printed "with the express inten-
tion of perverting the service of the
Holy Communion into the service of
the mass in conformity with the Ro-
man use."

At the Cathedral of St. John the
Divine, Dean Milo H. Gates said the
new missal had not been brought to
his attention and was not in use at
the Cathedral. He said it could not
be used in the Diocese of New York
without the permission of Bishop
Manning.

At the office of Bishop Manning,
who is considered as taking a posi-
tion between the low and high church
groups, it was said that no authoriza-
tion for the book's use had been is-
sued by him. Whether any clergy-
man in the diocese has asked per-
mission to use it is not known.

The Rev. Dr. Caleb R. Stetson,
rector of Trinity Church, known as
a High Church party leader, said
last night that the American Missal
was "a harmless book of devotion
largely made up of extracts from the
Book of Common Prayer." He said
that he had a copy, but had not
decided whether he would use it in
church services. He did not think it
would be necessary to ask Bishop
Manning's permission to use it, he
said.

Book Called Un-American.

The Chronicle editorial finds the
general character of the book "alien
to the traditions of the Protestant
Episcopal Church in the United
States" and "thoroughly at variance
with the genius of American Chris-
tianity." It takes to task also Dr.
Lucien M. Robinson, Custodian of
the Standard Book of Common Prayer,
for certifying that the portions of
the missal taken from the prayer-
book conform to it.

"In order to give this illicit publi-
cation a fictitious currency," the

book conform to it.
"In order to give this illicit publication a factitious currency," the editorial continues, "the editors or the publishers or both by some devious method intrigued the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church to become involved in a very questionable enterprise. Dr. Robinson was recreant to a sacred trust."

The editorial then refers to the title page of the missal, pointing to the wording: "From the Book of Common Prayer according to the use of the Church in the United States of America." It declares that the title page of the Book of Common Prayer carries the words: "According to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

"This omission of accurate nomenclature," says The Chronicle, "is for the evident purpose of getting rid of the word Protestant. The reprint of the Communion Service, certain Collects, Epistles, and Gospels, serve rather as points of departure in the midst of 567 pages upon the greater part of which are introduced collects, rubrics, liturgical eccentricities and queer ornamentations that completely defy the orderly procedure of our authorized book of public worship. The provisions for requiem and votive masses completely denature the historic position of this Church."

Authorization Not Claimed.

The editorial says the book declares that it is not an authorized publication of the Church and is supplementary to and not a substitute for the Book of Common Prayer.

"Certain questions press for an answer, the editorial concludes. 'Who are the editors of this liturgical perversion? Who are the underwriters? What connection is there between the trustees of the Morehouse Literature Foundation and The American Missal? What Bishops have protested against it? What Bishops have inhibited its use? What Bishops, knowing that certain 'priests' are using it have either condoned or encouraged this illegal practice?'

"What measures must be taken to inform the Church at large of this unprecedented act of defiance of its teachings and authority? What will be the demands of the rising tide of indignation among loyal church people? What action will be taken at the next General Convention?'

"The Protestant Episcopal Church cannot ignore and will not condone this unparalleled instance of deliberate defiance of its clearly defined authority, its doctrinal and liturgical integrities by a publishing house supported by a small disloyal group of Bishops, priests and laymen."

The Chronicle is published at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., "in defense of the constitutional, progressive character of the Protestant Episcopal Church." Its editor is the Rev. Dr. Alexander Griswold Cummins. It is the official magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Society for the Promotion of Evangelical Knowledge and of the Protestant Episcopal Church League.